

## Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 271230Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0149

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV FR

SUBJECT : SEKOU TOURE DISCUSSES FRENCH-GUINEAN RELATIONS

REF: CONAKRY 1127; PARIS 19887

1. IN COURSE LONG TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PRESIDENT TOURE SEPTEMBER 25, I TOLD PRESIDENT THAT DURING RECENT STOPOVER IN PARIS (SEE PARIS 19887), I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT FRANCE HAD DECIDED UNILATERALLY TO PAY DEBTS OWED TO GUINEAN GOVERNMENT (FOR VETERANS PENSIONS, WHICH GUINEAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO PAY). I EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WOULD OPEN WAY TO EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION OF FRENCH-GUINEAN RELATIONS.

2. TOURE RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ALSO HEARD SIMILAR REPORT, AND THAT GUINEA WOULD BE GLAD TO GET MONEY OWED TO IT WHICH NOW AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$44 MILLION. BUT HE SAID NO PAYMENT HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT NOR WAS THERE ANY INDICATION WHEN PAYMENT WOULD BE MADE.

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3. TOURE CONTINUED THAT GUINEA HAS NO INTEREST IN MAINTAINING

ITS CONTROVERSY WITH FRANCE. GUINEA, HE SAID, CLEARLY NEEDS FRANCE MORE THAN FRANCE NEEDS GUINEA. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE RECALLED THAT FRANCE ITSELF HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN 1965 TO BREAK RELATIONS. TOURE RELATED AN INCIDENT THAT HAD OCCURRED AT THAT TIME. FINDING SUBSTANTIAL ARMS CACHES - FRENCH ARMS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$8 MILLION - NEAR THE SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST FRONTIERS, GUINEAN SECURITY FORCES FOUND AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT THE ARMS SUPPLIES HAD COME FROM THE FRENCH. TOURE ASKED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER (NOW PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW) TO CALL IN ALL AMBASSADORS SO THAT THESE FINDINGS COULD BE DEMONSTRATED. ONLY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR FAILED TO APPEAR. BEAVOGUI CALLED HIM ONCE AGAIN AND ASKED HIM TO ATTEND MEETING, BUT ONCE MORE FRENCH AMBASSADOR REFUSED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, TOURE SAID, FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN PARIS, WITH NO EXPLANATION WHATSOEVER, TOLD GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO DEPART. ONLY AFTER LEARNING OF THIS DID GUINEANS TELL FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO PARIS. THEN, TOURE CONTINUED, GUINEANS LEARNED THAT A FEW DAYS LATER DEGAULLE BLOCKED GUINEAN FUNDS HELD BY BANK OF FRANCE.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS, TOURE CONTINUED, RESTORATION OF RELATIONS IS MATTER OF FRENCH, NOT GUINEAN, INITIATIVE. GUINEANS CONSIDERED FRENCH BREAK IN RELATIONS AS ATTACK ON DIGNITY OF GUINEA AND PRESIDENT TOURE PERSONALLY. TOURE, THEREFORE AWAITS GESTURE FROM FRENCH WHICH WOULD REPAIR THIS AFFRONT TO HIS AND HIS COUNTRY'S DIGNITY. REPAYMENT OF DEBTS ALONE, UNACCOMPANIED BY SUCH A GESTURE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT, SINCE MONEY IS NOT THE ISSUE. MOREOVER, TOURE CONTINUED, BREAK IN RELATIONS CAME WELL BEFORE PORTUGUESE INVASION AND COMPLICITY OF FRENCH CITIZENS IN A NEW PLOT. THE ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS THEREFORE UNRELATED ALSO TO QUESTION OF FRENCH PRISONERS.

5. COMMENT: TOURE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT KIND OF GESTURE HE EXPECTED FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT. HE HAS TOLD ME PREVIOUSLY THAT HE AWAITED SOME STATEMENT FROM THE FRENCH SIMILAR TO STATEMENTS ISSUED BY FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL, IN EFFECT DENOUNCING ANY POSSIBLE ACTIVITY BY GERMAN NATIONALS AGAINST GUINEAN REGIME (CONAKRY 1127). THOUGH HE DID NOT REPEAT THIS SPECIFICALLY DURING PRESENT INTERVIEW, IT IS CLEAR IN ANY EVENT THAT SIMPLE  
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REPAYMENT OF DEBTS WILL NOT SUFFICE TO INDUCE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF FRENCH PRISONERS NOR TO PERMIT RELATIONS TO RETURN TO NORMAL.  
TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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